

CLAIMS

1 1. A module management system for obtaining management information from a
2 computing environment, the system comprising:

3 A library of data miner modules each configured to access hardware and/or
4 software entities in a computing environment for management information
5 a library of module registration files each defining an implementation of a data
6 miner module; and

7 a module manager that provides access to each of said data miner modules stored
8 in said library of data miner modules for which said library of registration files includes a
9 corresponding registration file defining an implementation of said data miner module.

1 2. The module management system of claim 1, wherein said module manager
2 generates a list of data miner modules for which said library of registration files includes
3 a corresponding registration file defining an implementation of said data miner module.

1 3. The module management system of claim 1, wherein a plurality of registration files
2 correspond and define a different implementation of one data miner module.

1 4. The module management system of claim 1, wherein said module management
2 system further comprises:

3 a module specification file that specifies requisite components to be identified in
4 said registration files to properly define a data miner module implementation,

5 wherein said module manager provide said access to said data miner modules for
6 which said library of registration files comprises a registration file that specifies said
7 requisite components in said definition of said data miner module implementation.

1 5. The module management system of claim 4, wherein said registration file
2 comprises:

3 an element defining the data miner module for which said registration file defines an
4 implementation; and

5 an attribute list defining said implementation of said defined data miner module.

- 1 6. The module management system of claim 4, wherein, for those data miners having
2 registration files that comply with said module specification file, said module manager
3 retrieves from said library of data miner modules and stores said retrieved data miner
4 modules in an accessible memory location.
5
- 1 7. The module management system of claim 4, wherein said registration files are
2 verified by said module manager when said registration files are initially read by said
3 module manager.
- 1 8. The module management system of claim 4, wherein each registration file is verified
2 by said module manager when it is initially added to said library of registration files.
- 1 9. The module management system of claim 4, wherein said module specification file
2 is in a document type descriptor (.dtd) file format.
- 1 10. The module management system of claim 5, wherein said attribute list comprises:
2 a description of the referenced data miner module; and
3 a version of the referenced data miner module.
- 1 11. The module management system of claim 10, wherein said attribute list further
2 comprises:
3 a title of the defined data miner module; and
4 a path to the defined data miner module.
- 1 12. The module management system of claim 11, wherein said attribute list further
2 comprises:
3 a name of the vendor supplying the defined data miner module; and
4 a web site of said vendor.
- 1 13. The module management system of claim 12, wherein said attribute list further
2 comprises:

an indication of the type of output format for presenting said management information generated by said defined data miner module, wherein said type of output is either a narrow output for a summarized view or a wide output for an expanded view.

14. The module management system of claim 5, wherein said attribute list further comprises:

an attribute indicating whether said defined data miner module supports a module editing function.

15. The module management system of claim 5, wherein said attribute list further comprises:

a path to a help file corresponding to said defined data miner module.

16. The module management system of claim 5, wherein said module manager generates a list of data miner modules that have been successfully stored in local memory and are thereafter available for execution.

17. A method for managing data miner modules in a service information portal of a computing environment, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a database of portal data miner modules, each said data miner module configured to extract or otherwise cause the generation of management information related to managed entities in the computing environment;

providing a specification for a module registration file;

receiving a registration file that defines an implementation of a data miner module;

verifying said received registration file satisfies said specification; and

providing access to said data miner modules for which said registration files comply with said specification.

18. A service information portal for displaying customer-based portal view display of networked computing environments, comprising:

a library of data miner modules each configured to access entities in the computing environment for management information;

5 a module manager that provides access to each data miner module stored in said data
6 miner library that is registered with said module manager; and
7 a portal view profile that includes a reference to one or more of said data miner
8 modules.

1 19. The service information portal of claim 18, further comprising:

2 a library of module registration files each defining an implementation of a data
3 miner module;

4 wherein said module manager provides said access to each data miner module stored
5 in said data miner library for which said library of registration files includes a
6 corresponding registration file defining an implementation of said data miner module.

1 20. The service information portal of claim 19, wherein the end user can modify said
2 portal view profile to alter the manner in which said implemented data miner module is
3 executed.